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DESCRIPTION OF TRACHYPTERUS SELENIRIS, A NEW SPECIES OF RIBBON-FISH FROM MONTEREY BAY, CALIFORNIA.

BY JOHN OTTERBEIN SNYDER.

Early in June of last year a large Ribbon-fish was found almost stranded on the beach at Monterey, California. It was secured by Mr. Frederick A. Woodworth, of Pacific Grove, and through his kindly interest sent to Stanford University for identification. Its close resemblance to *Trachypterus ishikawae*¹ of Japan was at once apparent, but a detailed examination was impossible at that time on account of the decayed condition of the specimen, the delicate silvery skin leaving the body at a touch of the finger, and the muscles almost parting from the bones. After a long immersion in a mixture of strong alcohol and formalin, it may now be handled without further injury.

When the Monterey specimen is compared with the type of *Trachypterus ishikawae*, certain differences appear which indicate that we have to deal with two distinct species, one of which, being unknown, is here described as *Trachypterus seleniris*. The latter differs from *T. ishikawae*, the most nearly allied form, in having a more slender body, a smaller head, a smaller eye, and a weaker armature of the body. The chief differences may be tabulated thus:

	<i>T. seleniris.</i>	<i>T. ishikawae.</i>
Length in millimeters.....	1520	1650
Head in length.....	9½ times.	8½ times.
Depth near middle of body.....	11 "	7½ "
Depth at beginning of posterior third.....	18½ "	14 "
Diameter of eye.....	32 "	25 "
Length of maxillary.....	25 "	22 "

***Trachypterus seleniris* n. sp.**

Head, 9½ in the length; depth, 9½; eye, 3½ in head; dorsal rays, 168; pectoral, 9.

Length of head greater than its depth, about equal to depth of body in region of pectoral; snout 3 in head; width of interorbital space 2 in diameter of eye; lower jaw projecting slightly beyond the upper;

¹ *Trachypterus ishikawae* Jordan and Snyder, *Journal of the College of Science, Imperial University, Tokyo*, Vol. XV, Pt. 2, p. 310, Pl. XVII, fig. 10; *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections*, 45, p. 240, Pl. LXIII.

process of maxillary extending to a vertical through posterior border of eye; maxillary with a leaf-like flap a fourth of its length longer than diameter of eye, and with branched striations radiating from its point of attachment; opercular bones conspicuously striated. Teeth weak; loosely attached ones on vomer, a row of 4 on maxillary, and 4 on each side of symphysis of lower jaw, the posterior of which is 2 times the length of the anterior. Gill-rakers on first arch 5 + 10, provided with tooth-like setæ on the inner side; filaments of pseudobranchiæ equal in length to those of gills.

Origin of dorsal above upper edge of gill-opening, the rays highest near beginning of posterior third of body where they are about $1\frac{3}{4}$ times the diameter of eye; anterior rays not separated from the posterior ones nor lengthened. Length of pectoral slightly more than diameter of orbit. Ventral fins absent, or possibly represented by a mere filament, the place of insertion indicated by a spot on the breast below base of pectoral, where the skin, colored and sculptured, looks much like a pair of folded fins. Caudal projecting upwards; short fragmentary filaments present; several small spines projecting downwards and backwards from the broadened end of the caudal peduncle.

Head naked; scales of body in the form of minute pads or plates containing a varying amount of bony matter; those on median ventral surface pointed, hard and white like enamel, covering a narrow ridge and lying in a single row near extremity of tail; among those on dorsal part of body, some are enlarged and arranged in vertical rows parallel with the interneurals. Lateral line with small, quill-like tubes; beginning at upper edge of gill-opening, bending rather abruptly downwards and extending along body somewhat below the median line; not armed at any point.

Color bright silvery.

Type No. 13,080 Stanford University collection.

Called *seleniris* on account of a fancied resemblance of the long, flat, silvery body to the colorless lunar rainbow.